

Our Ref: 002140/14

Your Ref:



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

09 April 2014

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 25/03/2014.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

Q1. A list of all properties, within your police force, that are still functioning as a Police House. I understand the term `Police House` to mean a Police Station in a village, staffed by a single uniformed Constable, often incorporating a cell, an office and acting as a residence for the Constable and his family. Other related terms include `Residential Beat Station`, `Community Beat Station` and `Village Bobby.

A1. None

Q2. A list of all properties, within your police force, that have previously functioned as a Police House (as defined above) and any related information you have, such as whether the buildings were purpose built and / or incorporated a cell, office or kennel. (The oldest purpose-built police station in England dates back to 1843 and I am looking to research as many of these buildings, as far back in the history of the police force as possible).

A2. This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. To locate, retrieve and extract the requested information requires a manual search of all records held. An initial search revealed a total of 308 properties which fall under the category 'Police Houses' that have been sold since 1972. The majority of these houses would be for residential use only and would not have had any operational facilities attached to them. There are no records prior to this.

To establish which ones of these houses would fall into the category, which you express interest in, would require research to be conducted on each property.

We estimate that this would take a minimum of 30 minutes to read the file and even then an outcome would not be guaranteed.

This takes the request over the cost threshold of 18 working hours and engages Section 12 (1) of the Act.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 12(1) of the act being applied

12. – (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Should you wish for the Force to continue with your request, a more accurate figure will be provided within a fee's notice. The cost will need to be paid by you, prior to any further investigation. Please advise if you wish to proceed.

Alternatively you are invited to refine your request to bring it within the cost threshold – perhaps by reducing the number of years you require data for, and resubmitting the request.

Q3. The location of `Beat Books - Diaries kept by each Village Bobby in your police force regarding their day to day life and work between 1843 and present day.

A3. None

You also asked for any details or contacts that may assist you, You may wish to contact the following:

Nottinghamshire Archives and Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Record Office, County House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG.

The Galleries of Justice (Museum), The Lace Market, High Pavement, Nottingham, NG1 1HN.

This Museum has an exhibit which reconstructs a Police Station from the past. They may possess policing items of interest within their archives.

Nottinghamshire Branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers.
<http://www.nottsnarpo.com/>

Their membership includes retired police officers from Nottinghamshire who may be able to identify examples of the types of premises you are interested in and also provide anecdotal information.

Parish Councils for Nottinghamshire.
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/local-councils/parish-councils/>

Your request describes examples of the types of police houses that would have served parishes in rural areas. The Parish Councils will have local knowledge of policing in their parishes extending back some considerable time.

An Internet search for "The Old Police House" will return some addresses of properties.

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;
- Are still waiting for a response and are unhappy with the delay.

How do I appeal?

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Notts
NG5 8PP

or alternatively freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Officer at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: casework@ico.org.uk